

2014 WYOMING TUBERCULOSIS FACT SHEET



Wyoming
Department
of Health

Commit to your health.

Overview: Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by a bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and is spread from person-to-person through the air when someone with TB disease coughs, sneezes, speaks or sings.

TB has two stages: active and latent. TB can only be spread when it is in the active stage, meaning the person infected has symptoms such as a cough that lasts for three or more weeks, fever, weight loss, weakness, and night sweats.

In the latent stage, the TB bacteria lives in your body without making you sick. TB is not infectious in this stage. If the bacteria multiply, the TB may progress to the active stage.¹

Risk Factors:

- Immigration from a country with a high amount of TB infection;
- Coming in contact with someone who has active TB disease;
- Having HIV or another disease which impacts the immune system;
- Current or history of incarceration for more than six months;
- Current or history of travel to a high-risk TB country; and
- Current or history of homelessness;.

Symptoms of active TB disease:

- Cough for three or more weeks;
- Fever;
- Weight loss;
- Weakness;
- Night Sweats.

Testing: Screening tests may include an injection under the skin on the arm to detect a reaction, or a blood test. If the screening test indicates you have TB, a chest x-ray is used to determine if infection is active or latent.

Treatment: Treatment for TB is lengthy and may include a regime of antibiotics prescribed by a health care provider.

Complications: Many serious complications can occur with TB. The TB bacteria can become resistant to certain types of medications normally used to treat the infection, especially if you don't take the full course of antibiotics prescribed to you when you have latent TB infection. If active TB is not caught and treated early, the infection can cause death.

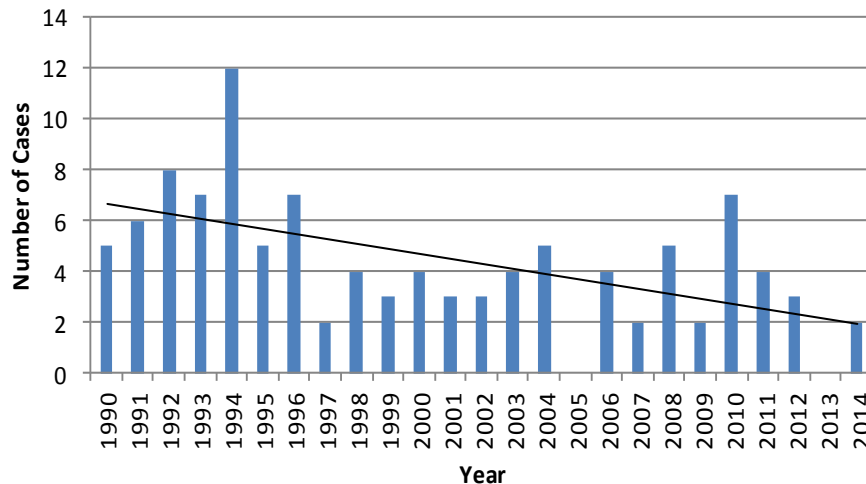
Prevention:

- Get tested if you are at risk of infection;
- Treat latent infection and take the entire course of the prescribed medications;

Statistics: Wyoming has a low number of active TB disease each year. In 2014, two cases of active TB were reported. Overall since 1990, active TB disease has been steadily declining. Though active TB has been declining overall since 1990, it is imperative to maintain prevention efforts, such as ensuring completion of treatment for those with latent infection, to prevent resurgence of the disease. From 2010-2014, 44% of active TB disease cases were foreign born.

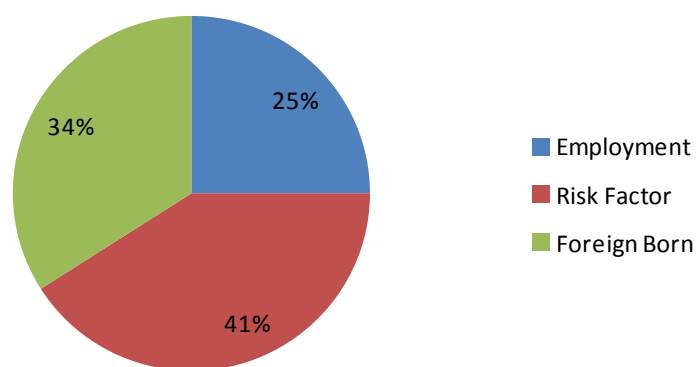


Number of active TB cases reported by year, Wyoming, 1990-2014.



The Wyoming Department of Health TB Program provides medication to those testing positive for latent TB infection. From 2010-2014, most individuals started on LTBI medications reported a risk factor for TB infection such as living in a correctional or other congregate setting, homelessness, and visiting a country with a high incidence of TB. Another frequently reported reason for screening was immigration from a country with a high incidence of TB.

Reason for screening, LTBI patients started on medication, Wyoming, 2010-2014.



For more information:

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1. <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/topic/basics/default.htm>
2. <http://www.cdc.gov/tb/statistics/default.htm>